



NESTON



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER

Issue No.8

FEBRUARY 2010

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Neston U3A Newsletter

First let me wish you all a very happy New Year. As memories of Christmas fade, we look forward to our programme for 2010. I am sorry that, as I write, snow is disrupting some of our group meetings. Do please keep in touch with your group coordinators to check on their plans. Obviously we want to run our full programmes, but even more important is to avoid accidents to any of our members. He's a fine one to talk I hear you saying!

Your committee have been wrestling with ideas of how we might keep members better informed of our future events and activities. Of course this newsletter, monthly meetings, our website and the new one for the NW Region of U3As at www.nwu3a.web.officelive.com are major sources of information. I have also asked group coordinators who are not on e-mail to nominate a "deputy" who is. We will try to get some information around using this informal route. Kay has also begun to produce "flyers" about trips and outings. These will be distributed at monthly meetings, but please take the information to circulate "absent friends" if you will be seeing someone who may be interested. Once again can I take this opportunity publicly to thank the few individuals who are undertaking extra work to help to keep the rest of us better informed.

"NW U3A News number 4", to be found in the bulletin board section of Neston U3A website and also on the NW Regional website gives more information about and application forms for four regional events:

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Chairman- Third Age Trust- Barn Dancing

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The **NW REGIONAL CONFERENCE** at St Cuthberts, Preston 10.00 - 16-00 12th February 2010. A chance to hear the Third Age Trust Chairman, Ian Searle talk about his vision for the future and Lin Jonas talk about resources available to U3As (registration essential; **closing date for applications 30th January 2010**).

The **CAPITAL OF CULTURE REVISITED** 16th March. Still places available. Published **Closing date for applications was 22nd January** (registration essential, forms in newsletter No3).

MYERSCOUGH RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL 7th-10th April. Places still available on several courses (registration essential, forms in newsletter No3).

AGM and SPECIAL LECTURE BY DR JOHN PRAG - Professor of Archaeology at Manchester Museum and pioneer in reconstructing ancient faces from skeletal remains. 13.45 on 25th May at Friends Meeting House, off Albert Square, Central Manchester. (Registration information will be circulated in January 2010).

I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend some of the above events to take advantage of the new opportunities being offered on a Regional basis.

Dave Starling.

Third Age Trust Events 2010

Tuesday March 30th:- science lectures at the Royal Institution, London.

June 22-28th:- Jazz appreciation holiday , Rimini.

August 16th-19th and August 23rd-26th:- National Summer Schools, Cirencester.

For more info on any of these events contact your secretary Ann Taylor.

BARN DANCING started again on Jan 8th and will continue fortnightly (except for Easter) until the end of May. Contact Ann Taylor for details.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

as an outlet for your holiday snaps

I am sure I am not alone in having boxes of holiday snaps, particularly slides, dating back many years, occupying valuable cupboard space, with the thoughts that someday I will sort these out into some sort of viewable order. The Armchair Travel Group has to a certain extent given me the impetus to do this and I have sorted some of my more recent holiday photos into presentations for the Group. Of course it also gives me lots of useful mental exercise in trying to remember where the photographs were taken and then if there is anything interesting to say about them. We are now in the digital photography age and this has made quite a difference to my attitude to holiday photography. I don't now worry about the price of film and take many more images (and more work sorting them out) than I used to and I find myself thinking about using them for my Armchair Travel and so take pictures of scenes that may not be of much interest

at the time but could give a good link in a future presentation. You may well ask what digital photography has to do with those boxes of old slides. The easiest way is to dig out your old slide projector (or borrow one) and put together a presentation in the traditional way, however it is also possible to scan them into a digital format. As an experiment, I recently put together a digital presentation from slides taken on two holidays in US National Parks. Using my own slide scanner it took me about 5 minutes per slide - so several evenings work for the 200 slides. You can also have slides scanned commercially; the cheapest I have seen recently costs over £30 for 100 slides. Prints can also be converted to digital using a flat bed scanner.

We need more presenters for Armchair Travel, so relive those holidays and look through the old snaps.

Dave Rosser

Some U3A websites

Neston

www.nestonu3a.co.uk

North West Region

www.nwu3a.web.officelive.com

National

www.u3a.org.uk

Group Leaders - Gardening - Pilates

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Report from Interest Group Coordinators' meeting

At the end of November we held a very useful coffee morning for the Interest Group coordinators so the Committee could thank them for all their hard work in leading the groups. It was also a great chance to share ideas and discuss ways of making Interest Groups more accessible to new members.

We are keen to find ways to improve communication with all our 385 members. I am asking all Interest Groups to provide me with an **e-mail address** so that I can contact them quickly with any relevant information or news. If the group leader does not have e-mail, someone else in the group who does should be the contact.

Finding people to lead groups is always a challenge! Although we are running 46 Interest Groups, there are 32 coordinators (some run more than one group) and 11 groups are run by your hard working committee! **Isn't it time that you became more involved in the running of your U3A?** At the meeting, coordinators felt that each group should have a "deputy" who can take over from the coordinator when they are away. Deputies could prepare to run the group if and when the coordinator steps down. They could also help with the setting up of a new group if numbers become too large. Is it fair to expect one person to run the group for ever?

Could all **group leaders** please inform Joan 353 1995 of any group member's serious illness or accidents.

Jan Reddy

*I am standing down from coordinating the **Gardening Group 2**. The group has its capacity but if there is anyone willing to take over they will be welcomed. Any one in group 2 who no longer wishes or is unable to attend meetings, can they please contact me, Pat. This will make space for active members. Thank you.*

Pilates groups 1 & 2 are both full at present. However I do keep details of folk who are interested and when space becomes available I contact them. The next session ends 22nd March, there may be space in the session after Easter.

Pat Mann

Interest Group Vacancies

At the moment there are a few vacancies in the following groups. Please ring the Coordinator or myself for more details:

Intermediate Spanish	David 342 6077
Beginning Spanish	Jan 336 5674
History	Linda 366 4783
Art History 2.	Yvonne 336 3688
Poetry, Prose and Plays	Nita 336 6466
German Conversation	Annabel 327 5424
Barn dancing	Ann 327 4667
Scrabble 2	Pamela 336 1095
Bird Group	Nita 336 6466
Exploring Music	Alan 342 3587

As always if you are interested in joining a group or forming a new group please contact me on 336 5674 or see me at the monthly meeting.

Please could I urge you to inform your group coordinator if you can no longer regularly attend your group. We can then offer someone else the opportunity to join the group. Could Coordinators please inform me of any current vacancies.

Many thanks

Jan Reddy

LITERATURE GROUP II

*We continue to enjoy lively and interesting discussions on the books we have read. On 16th February we will be welcoming the author, **Victoria Howard**, to talk to our group and members of Literature Group I have also been invited.*

Pam Garner - Co-ordinator Literature Group II - 336 2746

“Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”
attributed to Mark Twain

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

As reported in the November Newsletter, we had our second visit to Greenfields to explore the upper part of this historic industrial park. The weather was fine and we were able to explore some of these amazing remains of a bygone industrial era. In the various lakes the water birds, swans, tufted ducks, mallards, moorhens and an occasional cormorant seemed to be the only obvious inhabitants. David Rosser spotted a grey wagtail on a brick structure attached to one of the bridges but before I was able to train my camera on the bird it had flown off. The one mistake we made was to overlook the fact that the café, down near Basingwerke Abbey, closed early so we were unable to end up with a cup of tea before returning to England.

In November we had a meeting at Wayside mainly to examine members' photos taken earlier in the year. Then it was decided that we wouldn't have a meeting in December, so the next one is scheduled for the 20th January, probably also at Wayside, as we cannot be too confident of the weather at this time of year (as I write these lines it has been snowing here most of the day). If anyone is interested in photography they would be very welcome to come to one of our future meetings to meet our members and discuss photographic matters with us. Experience is not important and if there are any U3A members who are starting to take an interest in photography and would like some kind of advice I am sure some of our regulars would be only too pleased to help.

Peter Roca

Theatre Trips

20th April 7.30pm Floral Pavilion, Agatha Christie "Witness for the Prosecution", £18

28th April, 7.30pm Floral Pavilion, Gervase Phinn, Raconteur, £16.

MUST BE BOOKED AND PAID FOR AT JANUARY MEETING. SEE DOREEN.

Walking Group

We had a lovely New Year's Day walk led by Dave Rosser. Seventeen of us met in Tesco's car park and walked South towards the coast for about 2 miles turning back up the hill and round again to the car park. It was lovely to get out after the Christmas excesses and, as it turned out, before we were kept in by the bad weather!

The short walks are on the first Tuesday of the month. February's walk will be led by Mel and myself, it is 4 miles flat and will leave from Leasowe lighthouse at 10 a.m. The March walk will be led by Doreen and Brian Winstanley, is approx 4 and a half miles and will leave from the Brimstage Craft Centre at 10 a.m.

I still need volunteers to lead the April, September and December walks please.

The long walks (normally on the Friday after the monthly open meeting) are due to start again on the 26th of March and I am looking for leaders for March, April, June, September & October.

There is one hotel room left for the walking holiday in Anglesey on the 11th - 13th May if anyone is interested.

Marjorie Bevan
342 1744

EDITOR'S NOTES

Many thanks to those who have contributed items for this issue. Contributions are not confined to Interest Group Leaders. If you have an urge to write, prose or poetry, please send it in for the next issue.

Interest group leaders' telephone numbers may be found on the meetings schedule which is available on a separate leaflet.

The closing date for contributions for Issue 9 is Monday 19th April. Contributions before that day would be very helpful and welcome. The next issue will cover the months of May, June and July 2010

Contributions may be e-mailed ideally as a Word attachment, but will be welcomed in any format.

For postal or email address, or if you need help, ring 336 1095 .